

FORM PTO-1390 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER: 4001-1023 U.S. APP. NO. (if known) (see 37 CFR 1.53) 10/049843
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.: PCT/DE00/02084	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: 27 JUNE 2000 (27.06.00)	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED: 18 AUGUST 1999 (18.08.99)
TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR AUTOMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF PACKAGES		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US: Thomas BAYER, Torsten TANZ, Harald WESTERHOLD and Peter ZIER		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. <input type="checkbox"/> 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7. <input type="checkbox"/> 8. <input type="checkbox"/> 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10. <input type="checkbox"/> 11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 14. <input type="checkbox"/> 15. <input type="checkbox"/> 16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1). A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. (see attached copy of PCT/IB/308) c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). A translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). Item 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included: An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. A FIRST preliminary amendment. A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. A substitute specification. A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. Other items or information: INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT (PCT/IPEA/409--in French language), INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT (PCT/ISA/210--in German language), APPLICATION DATA SHEET, ABSTRACT	

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 10/049843		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/DE00/02084		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. 4001-1023	
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$ 1,040.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$ 890.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$ 740.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$ 710.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$ 100.00 <div style="text-align: right;">ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</div>				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$	
Total claims	11 - 20 =	0	X \$18.00	\$	
Independent claims	2 - 3 =	0	X \$84.00	\$	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS(S) (if applicable)			+ \$280.00	\$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$	890.00
Reduction of ½ for filing by small entity, if applicable. Applicant claims Small Entity Status under 37 CFR 1.27.				\$	
SUBTOTAL =				\$	890.00
Processing fee of \$130 for furnishing the English translation later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$	890.00
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				\$	40.00
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$	930.00
				Amount to be refunded:	
				charged:	
a.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A check in the amount of \$ 930.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.			
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please charge my Deposit Account No. 25-0120 in the amount of \$ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.			
c.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.			
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: YOUNG & THOMPSON 745 South 23rd Street 2nd Floor Arlington, VA 22202 (703) 521-2297 facsimile (703) 685-0573 Customer Number: 000466					
			February 19, 2002 By <u><i>Benoît Castel</i></u> Benoît Castel Attorney for Applicant Registration No. 35,041		

PATENT
4001-1023

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Thomas BAYER et al.

Appl. No.: Group:

Filed: February 19, 2002 Examiner:

For: METHOD AND DEIVCE FOR AUTOMATIC
DISTRIBUTION OF PACKAGES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents February 19, 2002
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and
remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the
above-identified application.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure
with the rewritten Abstract of the Disclosure attached on a
separate sheet attached hereto.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

--3. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim
1, characterized in that the package notification
card (10) is provided with a distribution date and
time imprint after package distribution has taken
place, and is retained.--

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REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

Benoit Castel

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745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297

BC/bam
Attachments

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended as follows:

Abstract

Method and device for automatic distribution of packages

~~The invention relates to~~ A method and device for the
~~distribution of packages to the recipient. Here, a~~
recipient in which the following steps are carried out:

- delivering or sending a package notification card with a machine-readable identification (ID) number to the recipient and applying the same ID number to the package,
- reading this ID number applied to the package and storing ~~said~~ the package in an automatic storage facility under this ID number,
- inputting the package notification card by the recipient into an automatic distribution reader for the machine-readable ID number,
- automatically retrieving the package from the storage facility, transporting the package to a closeable distribution station, opening the station on the basis of the ID number read from the package notification card and closing the station after the removal of the package.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, characterized in that the package notification card (10) is provided with a distribution date and time imprint after package distribution has taken place, and is retained.

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Abstract

Method and device for automatic distribution of packages

A method and device for the distribution of packages to a recipient in which the following steps are carried out:

- delivering or sending a package notification card with a machine-readable identification (ID) number to the recipient and applying the same ID number to the package,
- reading this ID number applied to the package and storing the package in an automatic storage facility under this ID number,
- inputting the package notification card by the recipient into an automatic distribution reader for the machine-readable ID number,
- automatically retrieving the package from the storage facility, transporting the package to a closeable distribution station, opening the station on the basis of the ID number read from the package notification card and closing the station after the removal of the package.

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Description

Method and device for automatic distribution of packages

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The invention relates to a method and a device for automatic distribution of packages, such as parcels, small packets and the like, to the recipient.

- 10 According to the prior art, the packages are delivered to the recipients by services corresponding to deliverers. In this case, it often occurs that the recipient is not present. In this case, he receives a notification card, to the effect that he was not met
- 15 and therefore has to fetch this package from a central collection and distribution point, for example a post office. The packages are distributed there manually during restricted opening times. This procedure requires a great deal of work and, because of the
- 20 restricted opening times, is unsatisfactory for the recipient.

- The invention is therefore based on the object of providing a method and a device for automatic
- 25 distribution of packages in which the disadvantages described can be avoided and the packages can be distributed automatically, without any time restriction and additional outlay on notification. In this case, there must also be the possibility of identifying the
- 30 collector unambiguously.

According to the invention, the object is achieved by the features of claims 1 and 7.

The steps:

- 35 - delivering or sending a package notification card with a machine-readable identification (ID) number to the recipient and applying the same ID number to the package,

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- reading this ID number applied to the package and storing said package in an automatic storage facility under this

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ID number,

- inputting the package notification card by the recipient into an automatic distribution reader for the machine-readable ID number,
- 5 - automatically retrieving the package from the storage facility, transporting the package to a closeable transfer station, opening the station on the basis of the ID number read from the package notification card and closing the station after the removal of the
- 10 package,

permits the stored packages to be distributed without the involvement of human beings and therefore also without any restriction on time.

- Advantageous refinements of the invention are
- 15 illustrated in the subclaims.

- For example, it is possible to distribute the package only if, as a further condition, personal identification features are recorded and/or read, with which verification as to the whereabouts of the package
- 20 is possible.

- It is also advantageous, as additional verification, to provide the package notification card with a distribution date and time imprint after distribution of the package has taken place and to retain said card.
- 25 In a further advantageous refinement, before the storage of the package for distribution to the recipient, a machine-readable input code, for example the recipient address in a bar code form, produced during the dispatch of the package, is additionally
 - 30 read and the distribution of the package to the recipient and, if required, additionally the storage, together with the input code and distribution or storage date and time are reported to a central station for package tracking and distribution status reporting.

- 35 As a result, it is possible for the sender or the distribution company at any time to interrogate the distribution status, including the time of transfer.

If the distribution of the package is to be carried out only against payment, then it is advantageous if a

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machine-readable input code is applied to the package during the dispatch, containing the payment condition and the amount. Before the

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storage for distribution, the input code with the payment condition and the amount is then also read, and the package is distributed automatically to the recipient only when the amount has been paid at the distribution station.

It is also advantageous to read the ID number and, if required, the input code with the aid of a handheld scanner. As a result, difficulties in finding this ID number and the input code on the package are avoided.

10

In the following text, the invention will be explained in more detail in an exemplary embodiment and using the drawing, in which:

- 15 FIG 1a - f show the sequence during the delivery of the package in a schematic representation,
FIG 2 shows the distribution station in a schematic representation,
FIG 3 shows a sequence structure for the storage process,
20 FIG 4 shows a sequence structure for the retrieval process.

As FIG 1a shows, the deliverer 1 is distributing the packages, in this case parcels, in accordance with the recipient addresses. Since the recipient is not present, the deliverer 1 applies a machine-readable identification (ID) number, for example as bar code, to the relevant parcel 2 for the purpose of the storage and, according to FIG 1b puts a parcel notification card with the same machine-readable ID number into the letterbox 3. Another variant, not shown, consists in the distribution of the parcels 2 by the deliverer 1 not being done, and only the corresponding parcel notification card being sent directly to the recipient.
35 After the deliverer 1 has completed his distribution round, he stores the parcels 2 which cannot be distributed directly because of the absence of the recipients in his distribution support point, for

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example a post office (FIG 1c). For this purpose, he places each parcel 2 individually into

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10 a holding station 4. This holding station 4 includes a
stationary bar code scanner 5 for reading the ID number
21 for the purpose of object identification 20 for the
storage and of the machine-readable input code produced
5 during the the dispatch. This global input code can
characterize the recipient address or an ID number, but
this must identify the parcel 2 unambiguously within
the entire dispatch system and not just for storage at
a distribution point with a restricted number of
10 storage compartments.

15 A further, not illustrated, possibility for registering
the machine-readable information consists in the use of
a handheld scanner by the deliverer carrying out the
storage process. Possible difficulties during the
automatic finding of the regions with the machine-
readable information on the packages are therefore
avoided. Following the successful reading and the start
of the storage 22 in the parcel storage facility 23,
20 the parcel data are input into a database 24 belonging
to the parcel storage facility 23 or replaced by old
database values 25. This database 24 is a constituent
part of the control unit for the storage facility. In
addition, the global input code, storage location and
25 date and time are transmitted to a global database 26
belonging to a central facility for package tracking
and distribution status reporting, as indicated by the
flash, at which central facility the sender can
interrogate the dispatch status of his dispatches
30 (FIG 1c). The data flows from and to the databases 24,
26 are illustrated dashed in FIG 3 and 4.

Following the reading operation, within the context of
the storage action, the parcel 2 is supplied on a
transport path 6 to an automatically movable loader and
35 unloader 7 of an automatic storage facility, which
places the parcel 2 in a free storage compartment 8 in
accordance with the ID number applied to the parcel 2
by the deliverer 1, under the control of a control unit
(FIG 1d).

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In order to fetch his parcel 2, the recipient 9 goes to the distribution station of the automatic storage facility. There, he pushes his notification card 10, 30 5 into an opening provided for the purpose

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and passes his personal identity card past an appropriate identity card reader 12, with which the personal identification number is read (FIG 1e). The storage ID number 21 is then read with a bar code scanner as the output reader 11 for object identification 31. Using this ID number 21, a search 23 is made in the database 24 of the parcel storage facility and in the global database 26. If the ID number 21 is in the local database 24 of the parcel storage facility 23, then the parcel 2 is retrieved 35. At the same time, the data in the database 24 of the parcel storage facility are deleted and the data in the global database 26 are exchanged or supplemented by the distribution data, such as the date, time of day and collector, indicated by the flash. If the parcel 2 is not in this storage facility, then the recipient/collector 9 is additionally notified 37 where the parcel 2 is located, on the basis of an interrogation in the global database 26.

The notification card 10 is additionally printed by means of a printer 13, similar to a ticket canceling means, with the distribution date and time and transported into a card store, where there is already a stack 14 of cards. After the loader and unloader 7 has removed the parcel 2 from the storage compartment 8 and the parcel 2 has been transported to the distribution station via a transport path (not illustrated), a door 15 for the removal opening opens and the parcel 2 can be removed. The door 15 is then closed again.

In order that collect-on-delivery mailings, which have to be paid for by the recipient 9, are automatically distributed only after the payment operation, there is a payment device (not illustrated) at the distribution station.

A parcel which may be distributed only against payment is additionally given this condition and the amount to be paid in its input code. Once the input code has been read, then the control system receives a corresponding

- 5a -

communication, and the parcel is released only after the payment of the amount read for distribution. Corresponding payment devices are known from

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the prior art. In-payments are possible without cash, with a credit card, or with a cash/debit card, in a similar way to that in automatic ticket machines.

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Patent claims

1. A method for automatic distribution of packages (2), such as parcels, small packets and the like, to the recipient (9), characterized by the steps:
- 5 - delivering or sending a package notification card (10) with a machine-readable identification (ID) number (21) to the recipient (9) and applying the same ID number (21) to the package (2),
 - 10 - reading this ID number (21) applied to the package (2) and storing the package (2) in an automatic storage facility under this ID number (21),
 - 15 - inputting of the package notification card (10) by the recipient (9) into an automatic distribution reader (11) for the machine-readable ID number (21),
 - 20 - automatically retrieving the package (2) from the storage facility, transporting the package (2) to a closeable distribution station, opening the station on the basis of the ID number (21) read from the package notification card (10) and closing the station after the removal of the package (2).
 - 25
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that as an additional distribution condition, personal identification features are recorded and/or automatically read and stored.
- 30
3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the package notification card (10) is provided with a distribution date and time imprint after package distribution has taken place, and is retained.
- 35
4. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that before the storage of the package (2) for

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distribution to the recipient (9), a machine-readable input code produced during the dispatch of the package (2) and

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applied to the package (2) is read, and the distribution of the package (2) to the recipient (9) and, if required, additionally the storage with the input code and distribution or storage date and time, is transmitted to a central facility for package tracking and distribution status reporting.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that in the case of a collect-on-delivery mailing to be paid by the recipient (9), a machine-readable input code is applied to the package (2) during the dispatch containing the payment condition and the amount to be paid, in that before the package (2) is stored for distribution to the recipient (9), the machine-readable input code is additionally read, and the distribution of the package (2) to the recipient (9) is carried out only after the payment of the amount at the distribution station.
6. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the reading of the ID number (21) applied to the package (2) and, optionally, of the input code is carried out before the storage, using a handheld scanner.
7. A device for automatic distribution of packages (2), such as parcels, small packets or the like, to the recipient (9), characterized by:
- an input reader (5) for reading a machine-readable ID number (21) applied to the package (2) and, coupled thereto, an automatic storage facility for storing the respective package (2) under this ID number (21),
 - a distribution reader (11) for reading the same ID number (21) on a package notification card (10) and, coupled thereto, the automatic storage

facility for retrieving the package (2) with
this ID number (21) and

- transport means for transporting the retrieved
packages (2) to a closeable distribution station
which

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is opened in the presence of a package (2) and is closed after the removal of the package (2).

5 8. The device as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that means (12) for reading and/or recording personal identification features are provided, and distribution is carried out only after a reading and/or recording process has been carried out.

10 9. The device as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that a printer (13) is provided to print distribution date and time on the package notification card (10), and also a store for the parcel notification cards (10).

15 10. The device as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the input reader (5) or an additional reader is constructed in such a way that it reads machine-readable input codes located on the
20 packages (10) and, when the respective package (2) is distributed, this input code, together with distribution date and time, can be transmitted to a central facility for package tracking and distribution status reporting.

25 11. The device as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that a payment device is provided at the distribution station, and the package (2) can be distributed only when the amount has been paid in
30 in cash or in a cash-free manner, said amount, together with a payment condition, having been read in the input code by the input reader (5) or an additional reader.

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Abstract

Method and device for automatic distribution of packages

The invention relates to the distribution of packages to the recipient. Here, the following steps are carried out:

- delivering or sending a package notification card with a machine-readable identification (ID) number to the recipient and applying the same ID number to the package,
- reading this ID number applied to the package and storing said package in an automatic storage facility under this ID number,
- inputting the package notification card by the recipient into an automatic distribution reader for the machine-readable ID number,
- automatically retrieving the package from the storage facility, transporting the package to a closeable distribution station, opening the station on the basis of the ID number read from the package notification card and closing the station after the removal of the package.

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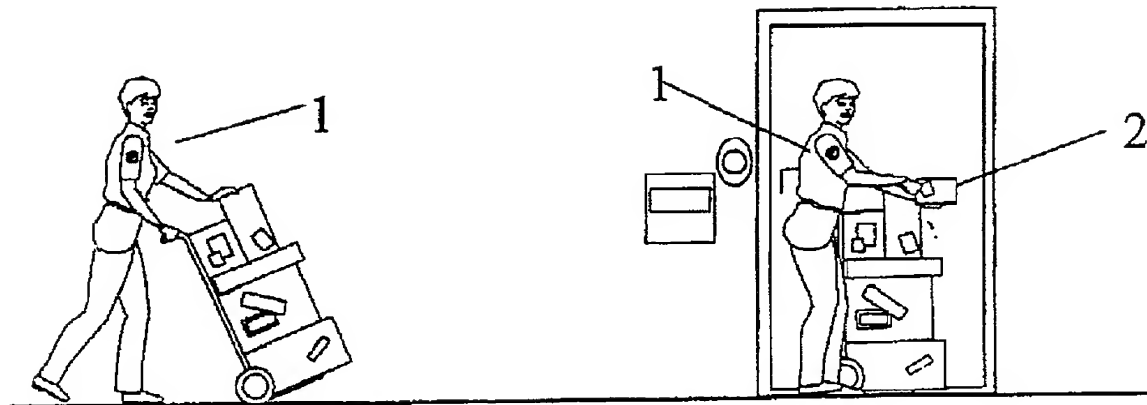


FIG 1a

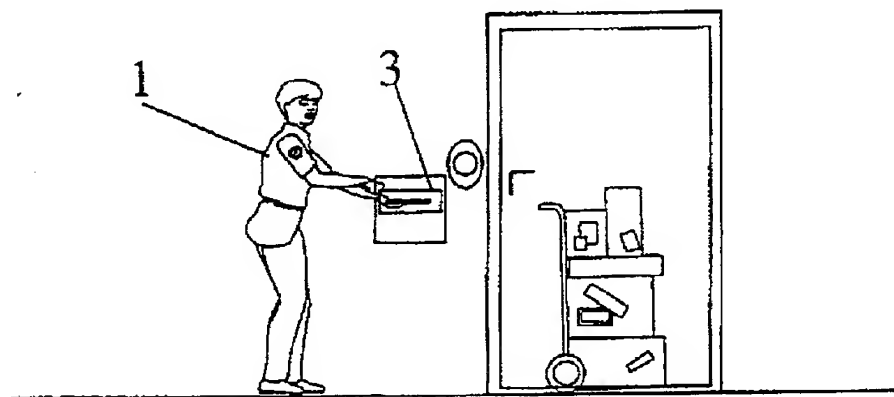


FIG 1b

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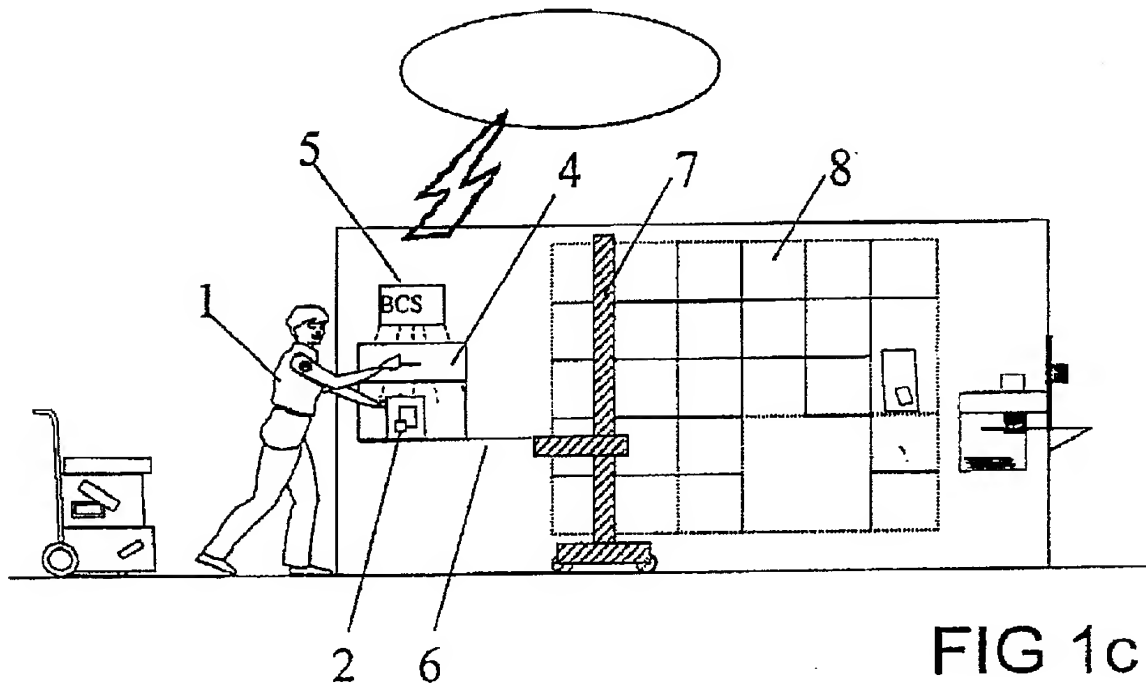


FIG 1c

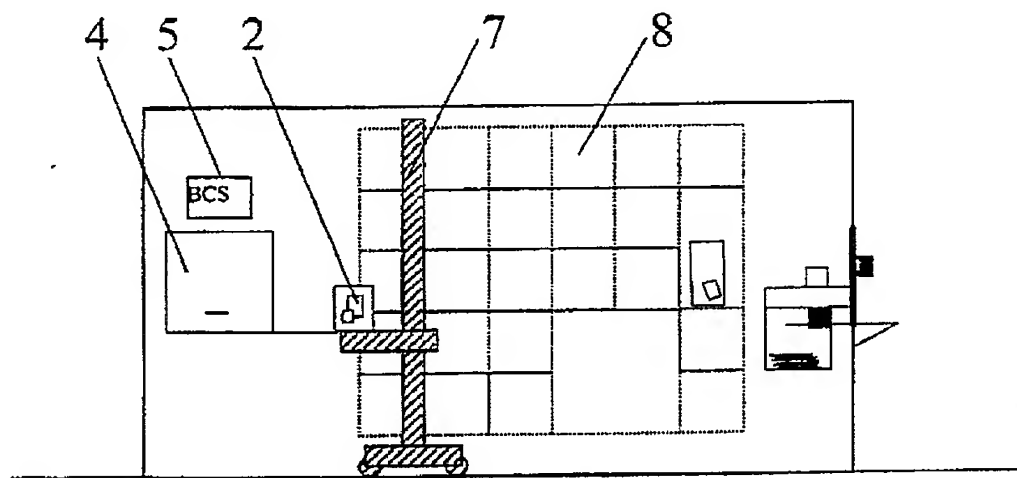


FIG 1d

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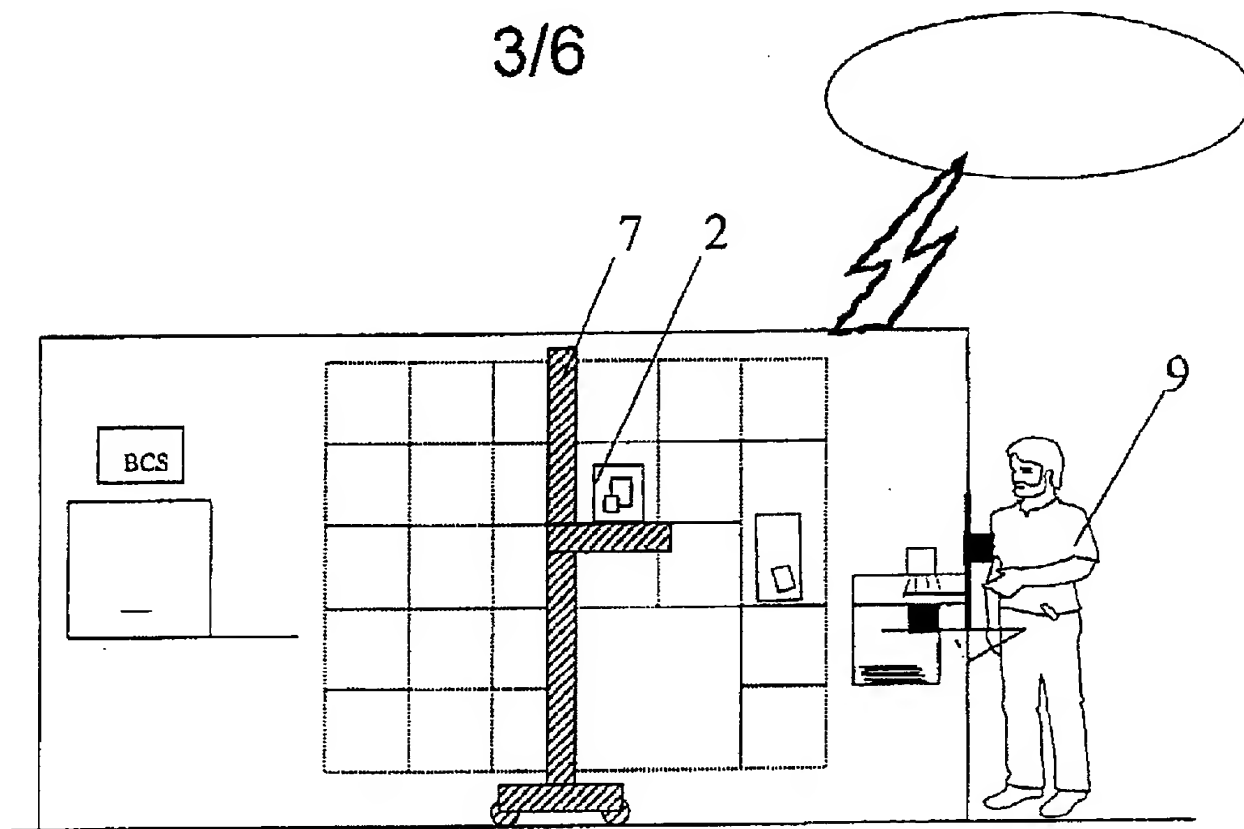


FIG 1e

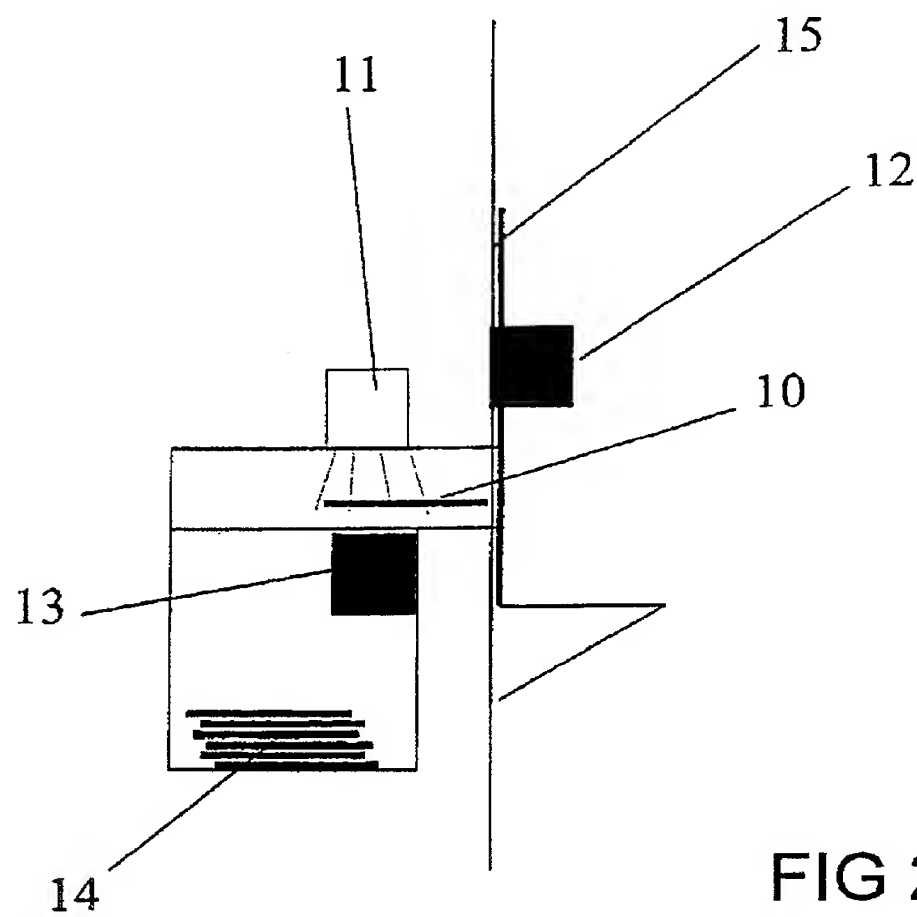


FIG 2

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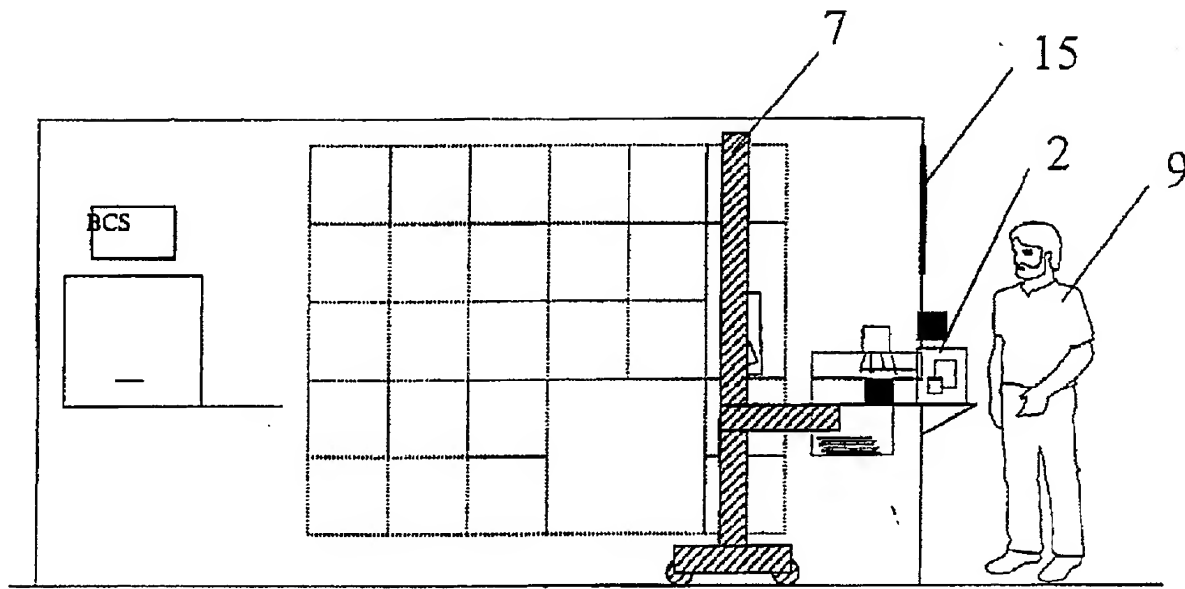


FIG 1f

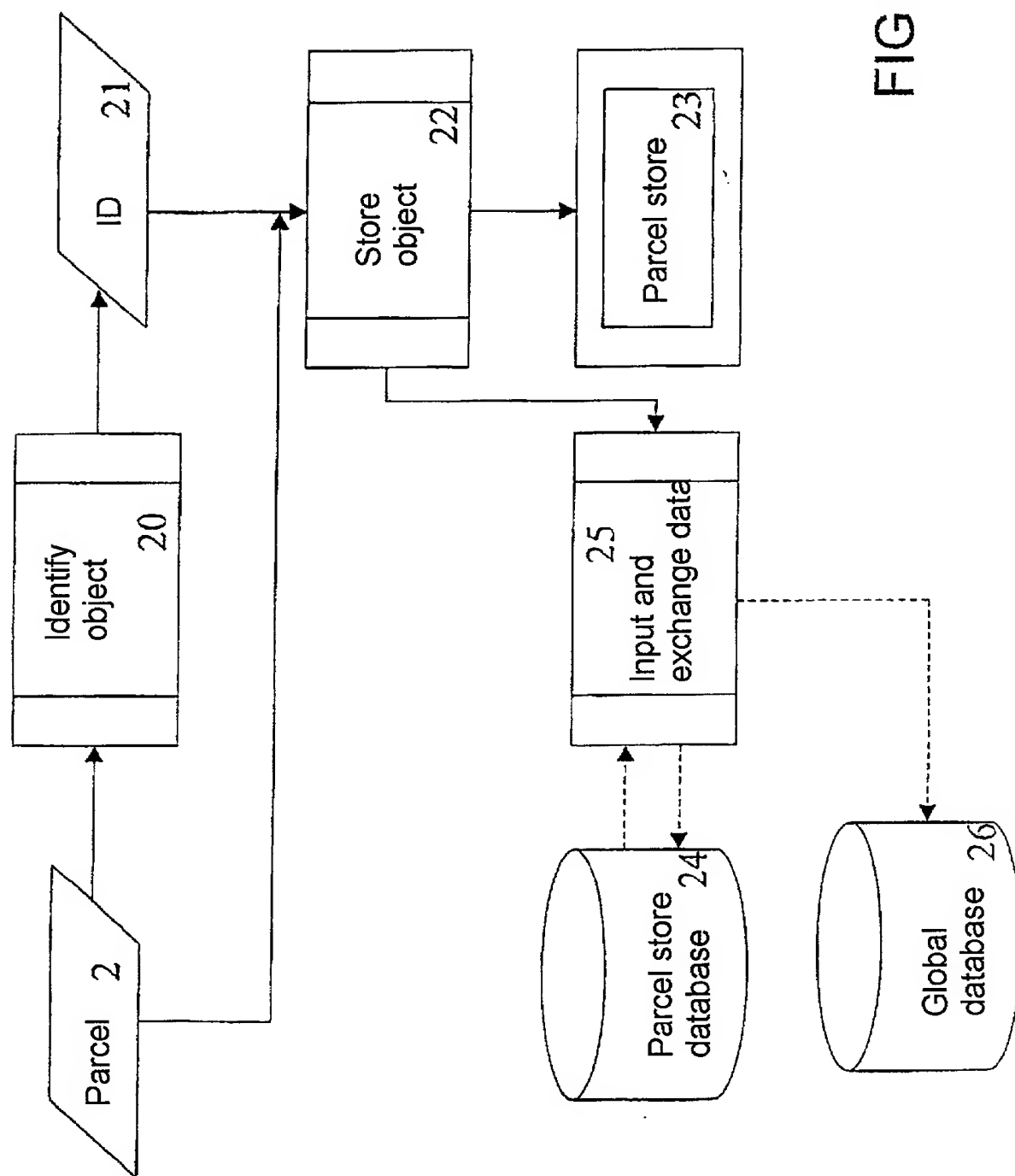


FIG 3

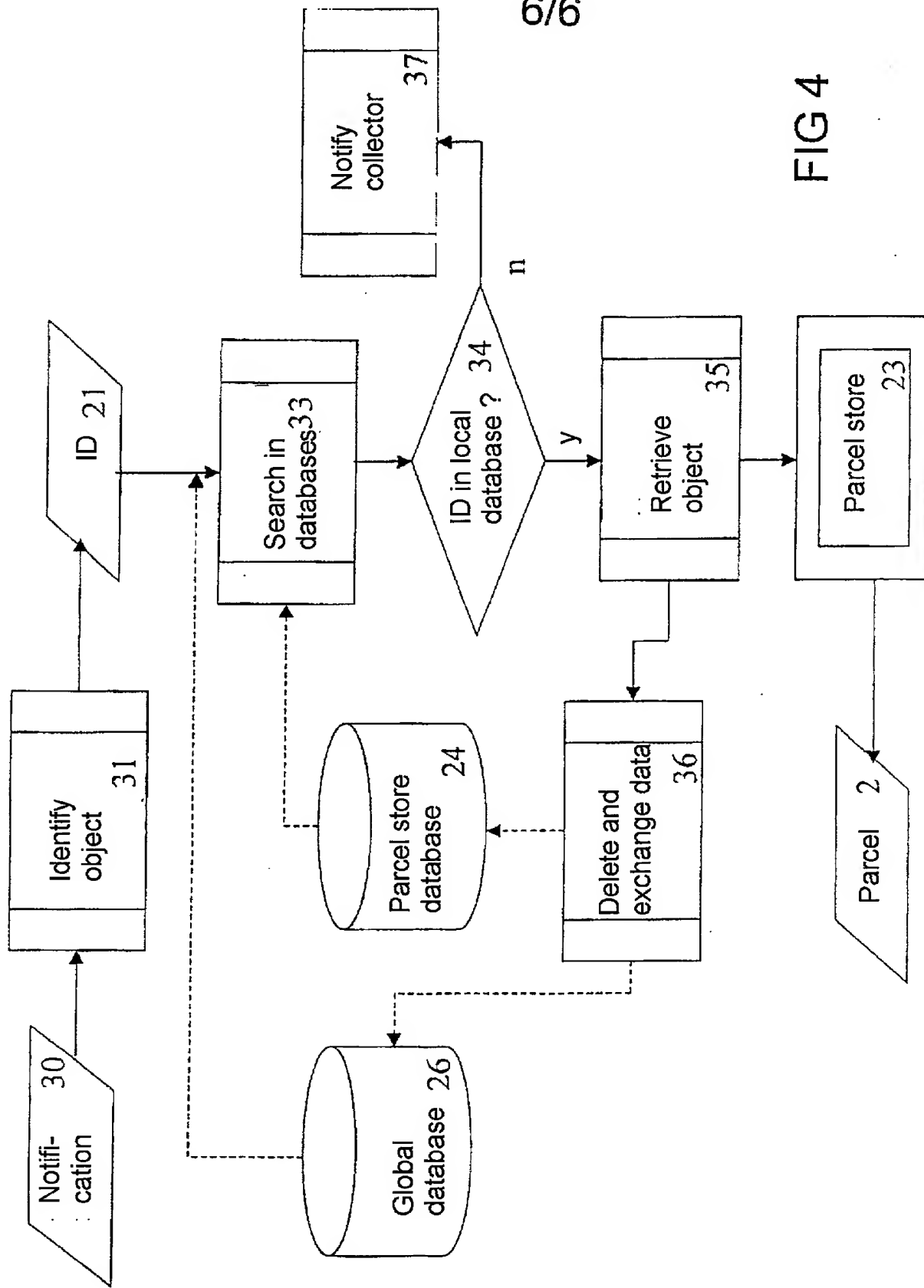


FIG 4

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

Erklärung Für Patentanmeldungen Mit Vollmacht

German Language Declaration

Als nachstehend benannter Erfinder erkläre ich hiermit an Eides Statt:

dass mein Wohnsitz, meine Postanschrift, und meine Staatsangehörigkeit den im Nachstehenden nach meinem Namen aufgeführten Angaben entsprechen,

dass ich, nach bestem Wissen der ursprüngliche, erste und alleinige Erfinder (falls nachstehend nur ein Name angegeben ist) oder ein ursprünglicher, erster und Miterfinder (falls nachstehend mehrere Namen aufgeführt sind) des Gegenstandes bin, für den dieser Antrag gestellt wird und für den ein Patent beantragt wird für die Erfindung mit dem Titel:

Verfahren und Einrichtung zum
automatischen Ausgeben von Stueckgut

deren Beschreibung

(zutreffendes ankreuzen)

☐ hier beigefügt ist.

☒ am __ als

PCT internationale Anmeldung

PCT Anmeldungsnummer _____

eingereicht wurde und am _____

abgeändert wurde (falls tatsächlich abgeändert).

Ich bestätige hiermit, dass ich den Inhalt der obigen Patentanmeldung einschliesslich der Ansprüche durchgesehen und verstanden habe, die eventuell durch einen Zusatzantrag wie oben erwähnt abgeändert wurde.

Ich erkenne meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung irgendwelcher Informationen, die für die Prüfung der vorliegenden Anmeldung in Einklang mit Absatz 37, Bundesgesetzbuch, Paragraph 1.56(a) von Wichtigkeit sind, an.

Ich beanspruche hiermit ausländische Prioritätsvorteile gemäss Abschnitt 35 der Zivilprozessordnung der Vereinigten Staaten, Paragraph 119 aller unten angegebenen Auslandsanmeldungen für ein Patent oder eine Erfindersurkunde, und habe auch alle Auslandsanmeldungen für ein Patent oder eine Erfindersurkunde nachstehend gekennzeichnet, die ein Anmeldedatum haben, das vor dem Anmeldedatum der Anmeldung liegt, für die Priorität beansprucht wird.

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

Verfahren und Einrichtung zum
automatischen Ausgeben von Stueckgut

the specification of which

(check one)

☐ is attached hereto.

☒ was filed on 27.06.2000 as

PCT international application

PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/02084

and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

German Language Declaration

Prior foreign applications
Priorität beansprucht

Priority Claimed

199 39 211.0

DE

18.08.1999

☒

☐

(Number)

(Country)

(Day Month Year Filed)

Yes

No

(Nummer)

(Land)

(Tag Monat Jahr eingereicht)

Ja

Nein

(Number)

(Country)

(Day Month Year Filed)

☐

☐

(Nummer)

(Land)

(Tag Monat Jahr eingereicht)

Yes

No

Ja

Nein

(Number)

(Country)

(Day Month Year Filed)

☐

☐

(Nummer)

(Land)

(Tag Monat Jahr eingereicht)

Yes

No

Ja

Nein

Ich beanspruche hiermit gemäss Absatz 35 der Zivilprozessordnung der Vereinigten Staaten, Paragraph 120, den Vorzug aller unten aufgeführten Anmeldungen und falls der Gegenstand aus jedem Anspruch dieser Anmeldung nicht in einer früheren amerikanischen Patentanmeldung laut dem ersten Paragraphen des Absatzes 35 der Zivilprozessordnung der Vereinigten Staaten, Paragraph 122 offenbart ist, erkenne ich gemäss Absatz 37, Bundesgesetzbuch, Paragraph 1.56(a) meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung von Informationen an, die zwischen dem Anmeldedatum der früheren Anmeldung und dem nationalen oder PCT internationalen Anmeldedatum dieser Anmeldung bekannt geworden sind.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §122, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

(Application Serial No.)
(Anmeldeseriennummer)

(Filing Date D, M, Y)
(Anmeldedatum T, M, J)

anhängig
(Status)
(patentiert, anhängig,
aufgegeben)

pending
(Status)
(patented, pending,
abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)
(Anmeldeseriennummer)

(Filing Date D,M,Y)
(Anmeldedatum T, M; J)

(Status)
(patentiert, anhängig,
aufgeben)

(Status)
(patented, pending,
abandoned)

Ich erkläre hiermit, dass alle von mir in der vorliegenden Erklärung gemachten Angaben nach meinem besten Wissen und Gewissen der vollen Wahrheit entsprechen, und dass ich diese eidesstattliche Erklärung in Kenntnis dessen abgebe, dass wissentlich und vorsätzlich falsche Angaben gemäss Paragraph 1001, Absatz 18 der Zivilprozessordnung der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika mit Geldstrafe belegt und/oder Gefängnis bestraft werden koennen, und dass derartig wissentlich und vorsätzlich falsche Angaben die Gültigkeit der vorliegenden Patentanmeldung oder eines darauf erteilten Patentes gefährden können.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

German Language Declaration

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POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

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And I hereby appoint

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